

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image data handling method for handling a low-energy image data set and a high-energy image data set used for generating an energy subtraction image data set, the image data handling method comprising the step of:

adding combination information to the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set for indicating that the low-energy image data set belongs to the same combination as the high-energy image data set.

2. (original): An image data handling method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

adding the combination information to the energy subtraction image data set generated from the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set, for indicating that the energy subtraction image data set belongs to the same combination as the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set.

3. (original): An image data handling method for handling an energy subtraction image data set generated from a low-energy image data set and a high-energy image data set, the image data handling method comprising the step of:

adding image data set specification information to the energy subtraction image data set for specifying the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set used for generating the energy subtraction image data set.

4. (original): An image data handling apparatus for handling a low-energy image data set and a high-energy image data set used for generating an energy subtraction image data set, the image data handling apparatus comprising:

information addition means for adding combination information to the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set for indicating that the low-energy image data set belongs to the same combination as the high-energy image data set.

5. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein the information addition means adds energy distinction information to the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set for distinguishing the low-energy image data set from the high-energy image data set.

6. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 4 or 5, wherein the information addition means adds subtraction target information to the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set for indicating that the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set are used for generating the energy subtraction image data set.

7. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein the information addition means adds the combination information to the energy subtraction image data set generated from the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set for indicating that the energy subtraction image data set belongs to the same combination as the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set.

8. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein the information addition means adds the combination information as series information.

9. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 7 or 8, further comprising:

display means for displaying a low-energy image based on the low-energy image data set, a high-energy image based on the high-energy image data set, and an energy subtraction image based on the energy subtraction image data set; and

switching means for carrying out changeover display of the images on the display means.

10. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 9, further comprising:

energy subtraction processing means for generating the energy subtraction image data set from the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set; and

subtraction parameter changing means for changing a value of a subtraction parameter used by the energy subtraction processing means for generating the energy subtraction image data set.

11. (original): An image data handling apparatus as defined in claim 9, further comprising:

image processing means for carrying out image processing on the image data sets representing the images; and

image processing parameter changing means for changing an image processing parameter used for carrying out the image processing in the image processing means.

12. (original): An image data handling apparatus for handling an energy subtraction image data set generated from a low-energy image data set and a high-energy image data set, the image data handling apparatus comprising:

information addition means for adding image data set specification information to the energy subtraction image data set for specifying the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set used for generating the energy subtraction image data set.

13. (new): The image data handling method of claim 1, wherein the combination information identifies, in the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set, image data sets used to generate the energy subtraction image data set.

14. (new): The image data handling method of claim 2, wherein the combination information identifies, in the energy subtraction image data set, image data sets used to generate the energy subtraction image data set.

15. (new): The image data handling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the combination information identifies, in the low-energy image data set and the high-energy image data set, image data sets used to generate the energy subtraction image data set.

16. (new): The image data handling apparatus of claim 7, wherein the combination information identifies, in the energy subtraction image data set, image data sets used to generate the energy subtraction image data set.

17. (new): The image data handling method of claim 1, wherein the combination information comprises a first record for the low-energy image data set, a second record for the high-energy image data set and a third record for the energy subtraction image data set, and

wherein each record comprises a data set identification number uniquely identifying the respective image data sets, a common source identifier that identifies the respective image data set as belonging to a common group, a file type identifier indicating that the respective image data set is a low-energy image data set, a high-energy image data set, a soft-tissue image data set

or a bone image data set, and an image filename indicating the location on a storage device for each respective data set.

18. (new): The image data handling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the combination information comprises a first record for the low-energy image data set, a second record for the high-energy image data set and a third record for the energy subtraction image data set, and

wherein each record comprises a data set identification number uniquely identifying the respective image data sets, a common source identifier that identifies the respective image data set as belonging to a common group, a file type identifier indicating that the respective image data set is a low-energy image data set, a high-energy image data set, a soft-tissue image data set or a bone image data set, and an image filename indicating the location on a storage device for each respective data set.

19. (new): The image data handling method of claim 1, wherein the combination information is entered automatically.

20. (new): The image data handling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the combination information is entered automatically.